

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) For collecting a specimen of a substance, a sampler, comprising:

a sampler body;

a plunger slidably contained within the sampler body and having an actuating end;

a platen having first and second opposing sides, the first side being removably couplable to an end of the sampler body plunger opposite the actuating end;

a spring cooperatively coupled to the plunger and located between the platen and the actuating end and being configured to retract the platen within the sampler body; and

a sampling medium coupleable to the second side and configured to retain a specimen of a substance thereon.

2. (Currently Amended) The sampler as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a plunger slidably coupled to the sampler body and configured to removably couple to the platen wherein the spring is configured to project at least a portion of the platen outside the sampler body when the actuating end is depressed and retract the platen within the sampler body when the actuating end is released.

3. (Original) The sampler as recited in Claim 1 wherein the sampling medium comprises a foil of silver, carbon, indium, copper, or gold.

4. (Original) The sampler as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a platen cap configured to removably couple to the sampler body proximate the platen.

5. (Currently Amended) The sampler as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a rotatable platen coupled to the sampler body and configured to selectively selectively expose the sampling medium.

6. (Original) The sampler as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a specimen cap coupled to the platen.

7. (Canceled) The sampler as recited in Claim 1 further comprising

8. (Original) The sampler as recited in Claim 1 further comprising a security cap removably coupleable to the sampler body distal the platen.

9. (Original) The sampler as recited in Claim 1 wherein the platen is configured to couple to an analytical tool.

10. (Original) The sampler as recited in Claim 9 wherein the analytical tool is selected from the group consisting of:

a scanning electron microscope;
an Auger electron microscope;

a focused ion beam tool; and
an X-ray reflection diffractometer.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a sampler for collecting a specimen of a substance on a surface, comprising:

~~coupling a sampler body to a platen having first and second opposing sides at the first side;~~
and

~~coupling a sampling medium to the second side, the sampling medium configured to retain a specimen of a substance thereon;~~

providing a sampler body;
slidably positing a plunger within the sampler body, the plunger having an actuating end;
removably coupling a first side of a platen to the plunger to an end of the plunger opposite the actuating end;

cooperatively coupling a spring to the plunger between the platen and the actuating end, the spring being configured to retract the platen within the sampler body; and

coupling a sampling medium to a second side opposing the first side and being configured to retain a specimen of a substance thereon.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising slidably coupling a plunger to the sampler body, the plunger configured to removably couple to the platen wherein cooperatively coupling the spring includes coupling the spring to project at least a portion

of the platen outside the sampler body when the actuating end is depressed and retract the platen within the sampler body when the actuating end is released.

13. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein coupling a sampling medium includes coupling a sampling medium comprising a foil of silver, carbon, indium, copper, or gold.

14. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising coupling a platen cap to the sampler body proximate the platen, the platen cap configured to removably cover the platen.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising coupling a rotatable platen to the sampler body, the rotatable platen configured to selectively expose the sampling medium.

16. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising coupling a specimen cap to the platen.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising coupling a security cap to the sampler body distal the platen.

19. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein coupling a platen includes coupling a platen configured to couple to an analytical tool.

20. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 19 wherein coupling a platen includes coupling a platen configured to couple to an analytical tool selected from the group consisting of:

- a scanning electron microscope;
- an Auger electron microscope;
- a focused ion beam tool; and
- an X-ray reflection diffractometer.